

Child Maltreatment

Facts at a Glance

2013

Child Maltreatment

- In 2011, U.S. state and local child protective services (CPS) received an estimated 3.7 million referrals of children being abused or neglected.¹
 - CPS estimated that 681,000 children (9.1 per 1,000) were victims of maltreatment.
 - Of the child victims, 79% were victims of neglect; 18% of physical abuse; 9% of sexual abuse; and 10% were victims of other types of maltreatment including threatened abuse, parent's drug/alcohol abuse, or lack of supervision.
- CPS reports of child maltreatment may underestimate the true occurrence. Non-CPS studies estimate that 1 in 7 U.S. children experience some form of child maltreatment in their lifetimes.²⁻⁴
- Between 1990 and 2010, CPS-reported rates of sexual violence declined 62%, physical abuse declined 56%, and neglect declined 10%.⁵
- The total lifetime economic burden resulting from new cases of fatal and nonfatal child maltreatment in the United States is approximately \$124 billion.⁶

Deaths from Child Maltreatment

- In 2011, an estimated 1,750 children died from child maltreatment (rate of 2.1 per 100,000 children).¹
- Of the children who died from maltreatment in 2011, 71% experienced neglect either exclusively or in combination with another form of maltreatment and 48% percent experienced physical abuse either exclusively or in combination with another form of maltreatment.¹
- Of child maltreatment fatalities in 2011, 81.6% occurred among children younger than age 4; 9.5% among 4-7 year-olds; 4.6% among 8-11 year-olds; 2.2% among 12-15 year-olds; and 1.4% among 16-17 year-olds.¹
- The fatality rate for boys was 2.5 per 100,000 and for girls was 1.7 per 100,000.¹
- The 2011 rates of death per 100,000 children was 3.9 for African Americans, 2.6 for American Indian/Alaska Natives, 1.9 for Hispanics, 1.6 for non-Hispanic Whites, 1.2 for Pacific Islanders and 0.4 for Asians.¹

Characteristics of Victims

- In 2011, 35% of victims were younger than 3 years, with children younger than 1 year having the highest rate of victimization (21.2 per 1,000 children).¹
- The rates of victimization in 2011 were 8.7 per 1,000 children for boys and 9.6 per 1,000 children for girls.¹
- The 2011 rates of victimization per 1,000 children were 14.3 for African Americans, 11.4 for American Indian/Alaska Natives, 8.5 for Pacific Islanders, 8.6 for Hispanics, 7.9 for non-Hispanic Whites, and 1.7 for Asians.¹
- Approximately three quarters of victims in 2011 had no prior victimization for each year from 2007-2011.¹

Characteristics of Perpetrators

- Most victims in 2011 were maltreated by a parent (80.8%). Other perpetrators included relatives other than parents (5.9%), unmarried partners of parents (4.4%), and other unrelated adults (2.9%).¹
- In 2011, fewer than 6% of perpetrators were aged ≤ 19 years; 36.4% were aged 20-29 years; 32.3% were aged 30-39 years; 15.9% were aged 40-49 years; and 5.0% were aged 50-59 years.¹
- Two-fifths (45.1%) of perpetrators in 2011 were men, and 53.6% were women.¹

References

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